

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 10, 2021

Members: Richard, Chairman; Weiler, Vice Chairman; Martin, Member; Reinhold, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Richard, Chairman; Weiler, Vice Chairman; Martin, Member; Rowe, Council President; Ressler, Council Member; Thompson, Burkholder, Staff; Lt. McKim, Ephrata Police; 4 Guests

The Highway Committee met on April 26, 2021 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed the requests from The Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc. per their letter dated March 22, 2021 to conduct activities associated with the 102nd Ephrata Fair from September 20, 2021 through September 25, 2021. Staff noted an additional request and several modifications when comparing the current request letter to previous request letters. Committee directed staff to contact N. Elaine Sensenig, President of The Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc. and inquire about several concerns and report back to Committee via e-mail for further discussion at Council Work Session on May 3, 2021.
2. The Committee reviewed a Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement No. TSMA-36408 by and between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation and the Borough. This agreement is pursuant to 74 Pa.C.S. Chapter 92 and 75 Pa.C.S § 6122(a)(2) to define maintenance requirements for all traffic signals within the Borough. Local authorities are responsible for the installation, revision, maintenance, operation and removal of traffic signals on highways under their jurisdiction with written PennDOT approval pursuant to 67 Pa. Code § 212.5(c)(1). The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement No. TSMA-36408 at their May 10, 2021 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed a Resolution authorizing the President of Borough Council and the Borough Secretary to execute Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement No. TSMA-36408 with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt this Resolution at their May 10, 2021 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed a proposal from Rettew Associates, Inc. for engineering, design and bidding services for Traffic Engineering Services (Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption installation) at the following intersections:
 - North State Street and Locust Street
 - South Reading Road (SR 0272) and South State Street
 - South State Street (SR 0272), Rothsville Road (SR 1018), and Parkview Heights Road

The estimated cost of the professional services is \$11,450 and is within budget. The Committee will recommend that Council conditionally approve the proposal from Rettew Associates, Inc. subject to the agreement being in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor at their May 10, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee heard from Darryl Gibbs, a Borough citizen residing at 241 Railroad Avenue,

regarding vehicles parking along the west side of Railroad Avenue encroaching into and partially obstructing access to his driveway. Staff will talk over the issue and provide options for discussion at the May 2021 Highway Committee meeting.

2. The Committee followed up with Lakresha Zimmerman, a Borough citizen residing at 122 West Franklin Street for the past 11 years, regarding her recent experiences with parking tickets received while parked in the West Franklin Street parking lot and parking issues in general for seven vehicles used by Lakresha and her family. The Committee also heard from Lt. McKim with the Ephrata Police. Committee directed staff to provide any information available associated with leased parking spaces at the Locust Street parking lot and report back to Committee at their May 2021 meeting.
3. The Committee further discussed truck traffic on Apple Street, particularly trucks used to haul cars to and from the Garden Spot Auto Auction (GSAA). There are a wide variety of trucks hauling to and from the GSAA facility making it difficult to determine what to restrict to alleviate the safety concerns along Apple Street. The Committee asked that Lt. McKim with the Ephrata Police discuss the Apple Street truck concerns along with alternate routes for truck use with the GSAA General Manager and report to Committee for additional discussion at their May 2021 meeting.
4. Due to meeting time limitations the South State Street traffic concerns regarding vehicle speeds were not discussed and will be placed on the May 2021 Highway Committee meeting agenda.
5. The Committee reviewed the 1st Quarter 2021 budget report for those activities under their purview and noted no concerns at this time.

Old Business Items:

1. Borough staff continues communications with PennDOT regarding the South Oak Street bridge pedestrian railing/vehicle barrier with regards to PennDOT's plans for replacing similar barrier on their West Main Street (SR 0322) over Cocalico Creek Bridge. Staff will also contact the consultant performing the bridge inspection in November to discuss concerns regarding the pedestrian railing/vehicle barrier.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Staff updated the Committee on the SR 0222 and SR 0322 PennDOT diverging diamond project in Ephrata Township advising that a weekend detour is planned for May 14, 2021 at 9:00 pm through May 17, 2021 at 6:00 am to accommodate paving operations along SR 0322. The weekend of May 21-24, 2021 is the planned secondary date. Committee directed staff to confirm the SR 0322 westbound and eastbound detour routes and report back to Committee via e-mail prior to Council Work Session on May 3, 2021.